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April-June 1980
1st Quarter 1980

MONTANA



STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

**DISASTER
AND
EMERGENCY
SERVICES DIVISION**

NEWSLETTER

PLEASE RETURN

C. L. Gilbertson
Administrator

Thomas L. Judge
Governor

John J. Womack
The Adjutant General

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...

There is one thing that keeps us in the Disaster and Emergency Services business young and on our toes. That is that with every change of the seasons we can review our plans for a different type of threat. With the exception of the nuclear threat, earthquakes, and hazardous material spills which are entirely unpredictable, the seasons of the year increase our vulnerability for various types of hazards. What I am trying to say is that now is the time to be dusting off those plans which pertain to floods and later on high winds and tornado's. Most of us feel that with this past winter, which didn't produce great amounts of precipitation and in most areas the water content of the snow remaining in our mountains is way below normal, that we should be home safe as far as floods are concerned. Well, let me remind you that with the changing weather patterns throughout the entire United States the past few years, any area could expect unusual amounts of precipitation at any time which could cause flash flooding. Enough said, I realize here in Montana we are all ready for any contingency at any given time.

Another good thing to remember this time of the year is that it is almost budget time again in all your counties. Let's be prepared. F.E.M.A. hasn't put forth much information as to what guidance they will put out or what help will be available from the "Feds," but each of you has the responsibility for your counties preparedness so start from there.

C. L. Gilbertson

Awareness Week

Civil Defense Awareness Week is over. We've received 13 critique sheets so far, not really a good average considering the number of County Coordinators we have. Would appreciate your comments if at all possible.

We will be planning for next year and working your suggestions into our week for a much greater success.

We've gotten requests from other states asking for the information and procedures we followed. I think that, in itself says something.

Every day clippings from newspaper articles are received. The coverage has been great and makes me wonder if we are lax in "tooting our Civil Defense horn."

I want to thank each one of you for a job well done.

*Moneisa Magnuson
Nuclear Civil Protection Planner*

NCP

First of all, I would like to commend Donna Yarger, McCone County D.E.S. Coordinator, for the work she did in arranging for emergency information to be printed in the Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative Directory. Jack Bacon, District 4 Coordinator, was also instrumental in determining what information should be put in the book. This method of providing emergency information, both nuclear and natural, has the potential of reaching much of the rural population in eastern Montana, plus it will be retained within the home instead of being discarded. Good job to both of you!

Deer Lodge County is currently being surveyed by a survey team from Denver. It would be a benefit if each County Coordinator would keep track of fallout shelters that have been destroyed; also keep a record of any buildings that you feel could provide protection from fallout. Please send the lists to this office so that we can keep track of where we need any shelter surveying done.

The response has been pretty good this year. Keep it up!

*Dan Lieberg
Nuclear Civil Protection Planner*

Welcome Aboard: Mr. Rodger C. Johnson, Beaverhead County D.E.S. Coordinator
Effective February 5, 1980

RDO

A successful Radiological Defense Officers class was held in Livingston, Montana, March 17-21, at the Yellowstone Motor Inn. Eighteen students attended. The class was conducted by Mr. Glen Black from Montana State University.

All students successfully completed the course and diplomas were handed out by Roy E. Ryan, Training Officer, Montana State Disaster and Emergency Services.

Hazardous Materials

A two day hazardous materials seminar was held in Sidney, Montana, on March 11-12, by State DES staff. The seminar, held in the Sidney Armory, was attended by 72 interested people.

The featured speakers were: Doug Deal, Representative of Western Environmental Services, Portland, Oregon; Captain Walter Miller, Montana Highway Patrol; Mr. Les Kolsti, National LP Gas Association, Plentywood, Montana; Mr. Pete Armstrong, U.S. Department of Energy, Safeguard Division, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Sgt. Marney, Malmstrom Air Force Base; a representative from the Safety and Rules Division of Burlington Northern Railroad and a representative from Garrett Freightlines.

The next two day hazardous materials seminar will be held in Shelby, Montana at the Elks Club on April 15-16.

Bombs and Threats

The FBI Bomb Data Center incident summary for the month of November, 1979, lists the following bombing incidents for Montana:

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|------------|------------|---|
| November 1 | Helena, MT | Three mailboxes were destroyed by pipe bombs. |
| November 3 | Helena, MT | A pipe bomb made of copper tubing and black powder exploded inside a mailbox. |
| November 3 | Big Timber | A wooden suspension bridge was destroyed as the result of a bombing. Damage was estimated at \$20,000.00. |

Bombs, hoax and otherwise, are frequently found in schools and other public buildings. This is a good time to be sure schools have planned and rehearsed for bomb threat incidents. Do school secretaries know what questions to ask a person who calls in a bomb threat? Do schools have a procedure for notifying teachers that a threat has been called in? Are evacuation procedures adequate? Etc., etc.

RACES

At last, we're getting out a message in the RACES exercise. Many county coordinators wrote to say it was the best such exercise that they have had in a long time. Some good suggestions were offered about ways the exercise could be improved. These were passed on to the RACES organization for incorporation into future exercises where possible. The message form will be revised to simplify it, and the content of the messages shortened to speed transmission. One hundred thirty RACES operators in 34 counties participated transmitting 1,250 messages in a two hour period.

Edward A. Swetish, who supervised the statewide exercise said this indicates a good communications capability but it needs to be expanded to cover every county. The counties not represented in the exercise left gaps in the fallout coverage that could be serious in a real nuclear disaster or even an extensive natural disaster where good communications coverage would be required.

Ed takes this means of thanking all the county coordinators and RACES operators who participated, for a job well done. He is already planning the next exercise and hopes it will prove even more effective. It will be a continuation of the past two RACES exercises, i.e. H + 14 and will involve the State Staff to a greater extent. If you experienced any particular problems in your area with the exercise, please make note of them and send them to Ed so we can take a look at it and possibly find some solutions before the next exercise which will be held again in January.

Governor's Conference

The Annual Governor's Conference was a success! It was attended by D.E.S. Coordinators and public officials representing 45 Montana counties. Highlighting the meetings were personal appearances by Governor Thomas L. Judge, Lt. Governor Ted Schwinden, and Senator John Melcher.

Governor Judge spoke on energy problems and solutions in the nation and in Montana. He stressed that two keys to solving energy problems are conservation and increased domestic energy production. Judge said conservation is the most readily available and environmentally acceptable solution for the future.

The meeting of D.E.S. Coordinators and County Commissioners was opened with a welcoming address by State D.E.S. Administrator, C. L. Gilbertson, who later discussed Comprehensive Emergency Management and U.S.D.A. Disaster Preparedness and Programs. Mr. Jerome Olson, F.E.M.A. Region VIII, discussed the future goals and program objectives at the Federal level.

Other highlights of the conference included an excellent program on "D.E.S. in the Planning Process" presented by Tom Kelley, D.E.S. Director from Stillwater County. Also on the agenda were Mr. Don Dooley, Department of Community Affairs who spoke on Disaster Financing Options; Mr. Bill Rammer, National Weather Service, with an update from them; Lyall Schaeffer; Van K. Haderlie; and Wallace B. Edland. There were several workshops presented by John McPherson, Butte-Silver Bow County, and Jan Henry, George DeWolf, and Roy Ryan of the State D.E.S. Staff.

The banquet held at the Yogo Inn was attended by 45 coordinators and state staff and about 240 county commissioners. Entertainment was provided by the Yogo Gems, barber-shop quartet, Bob Yarger who was accompanied by Lila Green, and "Mr. Magic" Mike Fleming, from Park County. The Master of Ceremonies was Kim Potter, Flathead County. The accommodations and facilities at the Yogo Inn were excellent.



GOVERNOR THOMAS L. JUDGE



SENATOR JOHN MELCHER



LT. GOVERNOR TED SCHWINDEN

President's Award



James L. Kraft

At a recent meeting of the Montana Association of Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinators in Lewistown, Mr. James L. Kraft, Coordinator of Yellowstone County Disaster and Emergency Services, was presented with the President's Award. This award recognized Kraft as the most outstanding Civil Defense Coordinator for the State. Kraft, as the award describes, has contributed the most to the betterment of the Montana Association and to County Civil Defense programs. His actions reflect great credit upon himself, his office, the City of Billings, Yellowstone County, the Montana Association and the State of Montana.

Officers Elected

New officers were elected and installed at the February meeting of the Montana Association of Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinators in Lewistown. The new slate of officers and terms of office are as follows:

President, 2 years, Sam R. Kelly, Roosevelt County; president elect, 2 years, Kim Potter, Flathead County; secretary-treasurer, 1 year, Wilma Puich, Silver Bow County; district 1 vice-president, 1 year, Richard Giffin, Lake County; district 2 vice-president, Frank Frankovich, Judith Basin County; district 3 vice-president, Norman R. Parrent, Big Horn County; district 4 vice-president, 1 year, Dick Wessler, Valley County.

The overall objectives of the organization are to promote Civil Defense activities throughout the State, to establish a more effective liaison with the State Disaster and Emergency Services Office and to have a unified, strong voice in the United States Civil Defense Council.



Sam R. Kelly
President

From the desk of

Dale Laney

In recent times our DES programs have been likened to a bullseye target with the present marksmen shooting rapid fire. The scores are not too impressive, all the hits appear in the outer rings... excess property... training funds... P & A funding... to assist States and Counties suffered a stray hit so we can only give about 69% of 50% for that. They are getting close.

What sequence these marksmen will follow does not seem to be spelled out clearly at this time; standing, kneeling, prone, single action or just plain slow fire? It appears that with the practice they are getting and if they move up a few more feet closer to the target they will surely get into the "ten ring."

With the damage already to our programs it seems only necessary to get one or two "in the black" to destroy the target.

Should we make wager at this time as to the time that the first "bullseye" is going to hit? Should we make wager as to the number of direct hits the target takes before its total collapse or do you have a better idea?

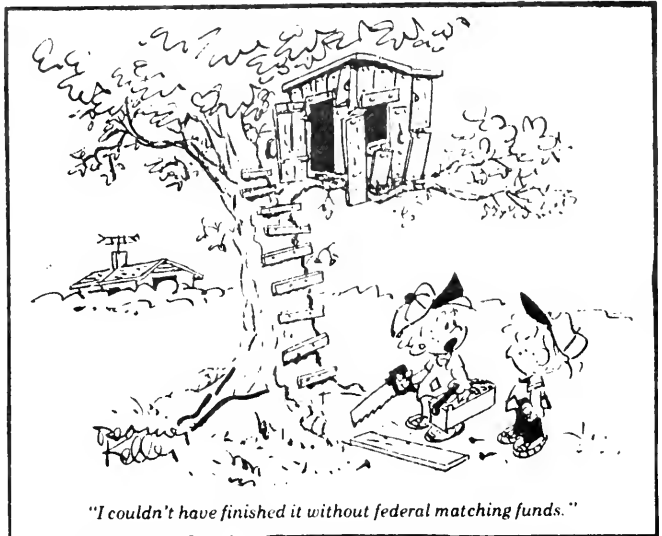
Perhaps we should all start with an ante of two bits... I don't know why one would think in lowly terms like "two bit" in this program. With all of this high funding maybe the winner could get a goose with all the trimmings.

P.S. When the target has fallen DO NOT submit a project application... as target money is in the same category as EOC... communications... warning... emergency power..., etc.... NO FUNDS.

Bill Thomas

Most of us have heard the old argument that disasters are simply "acts of God" that nobody can do anything about and that, therefore, planning is a waste of time.

The fact is that the media, the people and the courts are no longer buying that argument. A recently completed study by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), Berkeley, California concluded that "an increasing number of courts are holding governmental bodies financially responsible for damages suffered by private individuals in natural disasters."



From the desk of...(continued)

Although the ABAG study is concerned primarily with liability for damage caused by earthquakes, the legal facts of life presented are just as applicable to other natural and man-made disasters.

The study continues:

...there is the constant fact that cities and counties are inherently vulnerable to liability because of the many services they provide. They adopt and enforce building codes, land use and zoning ordinances; they PREPARE DISASTER AND EMERGENCY PLANS; they build and maintain numerous facilities of their own; and they are responsible for keeping public areas--parks, sidewalks, streets, etc.--free and clear of hazards. Local government can shirk neither these duties nor the potential liability which accompanies them. (emphasis added)

An executive summary of the study "Earthquake Hazards and Local Government Liability" is available free from Association of Bay Area Governments, Hotel Claremont, Berkely, California 94705 (Phone 415-841-9730).

Bill Thomas

Now is the time to review emergency plans, before ice jams, spring floods, fires, etc. Know where to locate resources and make sure phone numbers, names, resource lists, etc. are up-to-date. Ask yourself lots of questions:

Where will we operate from in event of major emergency?

Where are sandbags? How do we get them in a hurry if necessary? What is the Corps of Engineer policy regarding sandbags?

What areas are most likely to flood?

Have I contacted key people to keep them informed of their tasks and responsibilities and to ask their assistance in updating the plan?

Have I established necessary radio and newspaper contacts so that emergency information can be published in a hurry?

Have CB'ers been alerted to report high-water conditions?

Have I contacted the train dispatcher to let him know that I'm still around and need to be called if train-related emergencies arise?

When did I last hold an exercise? -- At least a small table-top exercise -- to familiarize key people with possible problems, their tasks, etc.

Can I ask for help or communicate outside the county if phones are out?

Have I appointed and trained someone to fill in for me if I'm gone when an emergency arises? Do key people, e.g. commissioners, have this person's name and telephone number, etc.....

From the desk of....(continued)

Planning is largely the process of anticipation, and the time to anticipate is now! The worst possible time to have to think about what to do is when you're caught off guard by an emergency.

Coming Events * * *

- April 14-18 Calibration and Maintenance staff will visit Liberty, Toole, and Glacier Counties to exchange instruments. They will also conduct a four hour Radiological Monitoring Course in Liberty County on April 14th.
- April 21-25 Calibration and Maintenance staff will visit Pondera and Teton Counties to exchange instruments. They will also conduct a four hour Radiological Monitoring Course in Pondera County on April 22nd and a four hour Hazardous Materials Seminar in Teton County on April 23rd.
- May 12-16 Calibration and Maintenance staff will visit Flathead County to conduct a two day Radiological Monitoring Course as already scheduled and to exchange instruments.
- May 19-22 Calibration and Maintenance staff will visit Deer Lodge and Powell Counties to exchange instruments. They will conduct a four hour Radiological Monitoring Course in Powell County on May 21st and in Deer Lodge County on May 20th as well as a four hour Hazardous Materials Seminar in Deer Lodge County on May 19th.
- June 16-27 Phase III will be conducted at Battle Creek, Michigan. This course is now closed to further enrollment.
- June 24-26 A conference sponsored by the Denver Office of Emergency Preparedness in Denver will be held for combined Regions VII and VIII at the Landmark Inn, 455 S. Colorado Blvd., in Denver. The registration fee is tentatively set at \$25.00 which will include a luncheon, banquet, coffee breaks, and incidentals. Registration at the door will be \$5.00 more. Please make reservations by May 5, 1980.
- As part of the program, on June 25th the Annual Airport Exercise will be held at Stapleton International Airport. Since this exercise is always very interesting, spouses of conference attendees are invited to observe. This conference would be very interesting to members of the Montana Association and U.S.C.D.C.

This is the U.S.C.D.C. Conference for Regions Seven and Eight.

Items of Interest

There is a toll free number for Citizen's Choice that you can now call to find out what is happening in Congress as it is being considered. The number plays a recording that is changed about twice a week and discusses the current measures being dealt with by Congress. The toll free number is 1-800-424-9820.

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There is a toll free number to Scott Air Force Base, Air Force Rescue Coordination Center that can be called direct for Search and Rescue assistance. The toll free number is 1-800-851-3051.

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A Phase II Class was conducted January 14-25, 1980, at Colorado Springs. Montana was well represented by all of the following people: Jim Anderson, Rod Keith, Lance Lahti, Dan Lieberg, Bruce McCallum, Chuck Rhodes, and Burton Walsh.

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There is now a special Emergency Frequency that may be designated for on-scene coordination of Search and Rescue Operations. The frequency is 155.160 MHz. Other Special Emergency frequencies may also be used for this purpose if 155.160 MHz is not available in the area. Those involved in search and rescue missions should coordinate and select the particular frequency for on-scene coordination in search and rescue. The Commission will authorize 155.160 MHz, or any other suitable frequency, to eligibles as an additional frequency when it is shown that it will be used for search and rescue coordination purposes.

Local government agencies may be authorized to use the selected on-scene coordination frequency if they are engaged in rescue operations but they may only use it in connection with such operations. Such local government agencies may apply for an authorization in the Special Emergency Radio Service in the normal manner. Federal government agencies involved in search and rescue may also be authorized to use that frequency through normal Federal government channels.

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The Irving Miller Company has moved to 2021 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60616, with same phone number of (312) 226-3930. This company supplies parts for military vehicles and may be a source of parts for excess property vehicles.

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The State Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is offering Montana homeowners some free advise on conserving energy in a new 288-page paperback book. The book discusses insulation, fireplaces and heating stoves, heating and air conditioning, home heating in an emergency, passive energy design, solar hot water systems, energy tax credits, and various energy conservation methods. The book is available free to Montana residents. For a copy of the Montana Energy Saving Handbook for Homeowners, write the Energy Division, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, 25 South Ewing, Helena, Montana 59601.

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The International Center for Safety Education now has an Aircraft Crash Management Course that is being taught in affiliation with Arizona State University. For more information you may contact William H. Allen or the school secretary Mary Norfleet at (602) 966-6690 or write them at P.O. Box 968, Tempe, Arizona 85281. There is also one copy of their basic information located in the Montana State D.E.S. office.

GOODBYE, PAT

Indeed, tis a sad day, this, for Patricia Beebe has resigned her position in the State Office of Disaster and Emergency Services.

Pat came to the State Office October 19, 1970, as the Fiscal Officer and was promoted to Administrative Officer, November 4, 1974, which she held until February 29, 1980.

Asking Patricia what's on her agenda for the coming years you may hear something like "I don't think I'll have time to be bored because I can catch up on all the things I like to do." It's apropos at this time to say her hobbies are, sewing, knitting, crocheting, crewel embroidery, stained glass, pottery, ceramics, oil and water color painting, machine embroidery, and "there's other things I'd like to learn."

To condense her abilities as Administrative Officer, the following is quoted from the Region VIII office in Denver... "Pat did such a great job that she was presented the 'Mothers Day Award of the Year' by all the class members. She is to be highly commended for taking such a dry subject and really arousing the students' interest. I really feel that her magnetism comes from her high enthusiasm for the Civil Defense Program. Pat contributed 100 per cent to make this Phase II Course a great success..."

It is certainly an under statement to say that Patricia Beebe, is and will be greatly missed by us all.



Patricia E. Beebe

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